

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously Presented) An electrical cardiac stimulation system as in claim 65 wherein the electrical stimulus conducts electrically between an atrial tip electrode and the housing.

53. (Previously Presented) An electrical cardiac stimulation system as in claim 65 wherein the electrical stimulus conducts electrically between a ventricular tip electrode and the housing.

54-55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously Presented) An electrical cardiac stimulation system as in claim 66 wherein the signal associated with the evoked response is sensed between an atrial ring electrode and a ventricular electrode.

57. (Previously Presented) An electrical cardiac stimulation system as in claim 66 wherein the electrical stimulus conducts electrically between an atrial tip electrode and the housing.

58. (Previously Presented) An electrical cardiac stimulation system as in claim 66 wherein the electrical stimulus conducts electrically between a ventricular tip electrode and the housing.

59. (Previously Presented) An electrical cardiac stimulation system as in claim 65 further comprising a superior vena cava coil electrode and wherein the signal associated with the evoked response can be selectively sensed between any one of a group of combinations of electrodes consisting of an atrial ring electrode to ventricular ring electrode, atrial ring electrode to can electrode, atrial ring electrode to ventricle coil electrode, atrial ring electrode to superior vena cava coil electrode, atrial tip electrode to ventricular coil electrode, atrial tip electrode to ventricular tip electrode, atrial tip electrode to atrial ring electrode, superior vena cava coil electrode to atrial tip electrode, superior vena cava coil electrode to ventricular coil electrode,

superior vena cava coil electrode to ventricular tip electrode, ventricular tip electrode to ventricular coil electrode, superior vena cava coil electrode to ventricular ring electrode, and ventricular ring electrode to ventricular coil electrode.

60-63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically determining whether an electrical stimulus evokes a response in the heart when the stimulus is applied by a cardiac electrical stimulation system having atrial and ventricular leads, a pulse generator, and a sensing circuit, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing an electrical stimulus to at least one of an atrium or ventricle of a heart, wherein the electrical stimulus is delivered through a coupling capacitance to an atrial or ventricular electrode;
- (b) ~~attenuating afterpotential associated with said electrical stimulus;~~
- (c) selectively sensing an evoked response by the heart to the electrical stimulus, wherein a signal associated with an evoked response from the electrical stimulus is sensed from the atrial or ventricular electrode used to deliver the electrical stimulus; and,  
reducing the coupling capacitance when an electrical stimulus is delivered for purposes of sensing an evoked response in order to attenuate afterpotentials associated with the electrical stimulus.  
~~between electrodes selected from the group, including atrial electrodes and ventricular electrodes of said leads wherein one of said electrodes selected is an atrial electrode and one of said electrodes is a ventricular electrode; and~~
- (d) ~~wherein said atrial lead includes an atrial tip electrode and an atrial ring electrode, and said ventricular lead includes a ventricular tip electrode, a ventricular coil electrode, and a ventricular ring electrode.~~

65. (Currently Amended) An electrical cardiac stimulation system having an autocapture/stimulation/sensing configuration for use with atrial and ventricular leads, said electrical cardiac stimulation system including:

- (a) a combination of electrodes selected from a plurality of possible combinations of atrial and ventricular electrodes, ~~at least one electrode of each said combination being selected from groups consisting of a plurality of atrial electrodes and a plurality of ventricular electrodes and at least one electrode of said combination optionally being selected from groups consisting of can electrodes and vena cava electrodes;~~
- (b) a stimulation system enclosed in a housing, said stimulation system being electrically coupled to each said atrial electrode and each said ventricular electrode for providing an electrical stimulus to at least one of an atrium or ventricle of a heart;
- (c) a sensing circuit that senses an evoked response by the heart to the electrical stimulus, wherein a signal associated with an evoked response from the electrical stimulus is sensed between at least two of said electrodes of said combination and ~~when~~ wherein said sensing circuit is adapted to selectively sense evoked responses between all combinations of any two of said electrodes;
- (d) an afterpotential attenuation device for attenuating afterpotentials which result due to the application of the pacing stimulus to the heart by said electrical stimulation system, said afterpotential attenuation device being electrically coupled to said stimulation system; and,
- (e) wherein said afterpotential attenuation device comprises a switch for reducing a coupling capacitance through which the pacing stimulus is delivered
- ~~(e) — an atrial lead including a plurality of atrial electrodes, said atrial electrodes including an atrial tip electrode and an atrial ring electrode; and~~
- ~~(f) — a ventricular lead including a plurality of ventricular electrodes including a ventricular tip electrode, a ventricular coil electrode, and a ventricular ring electrode.~~

66. (Currently Amended) An electrical cardiac stimulation system having an autocapture stimulation/sensing configuration for use with atrial and ventricular leads, said electrical cardiac stimulation system including:

- (a) a combination of electrodes selected from a plurality of possible combinations of atrial and ventricular electrodes, ~~at least one electrode of each said combination being selected from groups consisting of a plurality of atrial electrodes and a plurality of ventricular electrodes and at least one electrode of said combination optionally being selected from groups consisting of can electrodes and vena cava electrodes;~~
- (b) a stimulation means enclosed in a housing, said stimulation means being electrically coupled to each said atrial electrode and each said ventricular electrode for providing an electrical stimulus to at least one of an atrium or ventricle of a heart;
- (c) a sensing means that senses an evoked response by the heart to the electrical stimulus, wherein a signal associated with an evoked response from the electrical stimulus is sensed between at least two of said electrodes of said combination and ~~when~~ wherein said sensing means is adapted to selectively sense evoked responses between all combinations of any two of said electrodes;
- (d) an afterpotential attenuation means for attenuating afterpotentials which result due to the application of the pacing stimulus to the heart by said electrical stimulation means, said afterpotential attenuation means being electrically coupled to said stimulation means; and,
- (e) wherein said afterpotential attenuation device comprises means for reducing a coupling capacitance through which the pacing stimulus is delivered
- ~~(e) an atrial lead including a plurality of atrial electrodes including an atrial tip electrode and an atrial ring electrode; and~~
- ~~(f) a ventricular lead including a plurality of ventricular electrodes including a ventricular tip electrode, a ventricular coil electrode, and a ventricular ring electrode.~~

Please add the following claims:

67. (New) The method of claim 64 wherein the coupling capacitance is reduced when an electrical stimulus is delivered for purposes of sensing an evoked response in order to attenuate afterpotentials associated with the electrical stimulus by switchably connecting a first coupling capacitor in series with a second coupling capacitor.

68. (New) The system of claim 65 wherein the switch for reducing a coupling capacitance through which the pacing stimulus is delivered connects a first coupling capacitor in series with a second coupling capacitor.

69. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the means for reducing a coupling capacitance through which the pacing stimulus is delivered connects a first coupling capacitor in series with a second coupling capacitor.